

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: Dec. 21, 2005

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes ☐ No ☒

Department: DISTRICT FIVE

Staff Contact Person: Donna Hanson

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: **Approval to request that State Representative Sorensen use all resources available during the upcoming legislative year to remove Monroe County from State Critical Concern.**

ITEM BACKGROUND: Monroe County has been under State Critical Concert for over 30 years. All aspects of the Rule and Goal 105 have been met. Monroe County obligated over \$150 million for wastewater projects, over \$15 million for purchase of environmentally sensitive lands, and \$30 million for affordable housing.

Also, the county has adopted a tier system that protects all land having hammocks with three tier ratings—Tier 3, Tier 3-A, and Tier 1.

Since all Goals of 105 and the Rule have been met, critical concern is a huge burden to the state and the county and should be removed as soon as possible.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TOTAL COST: N/A

BUDGETED: Yes ☐ No ☐

COST TO COUNTY: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes ☐ No ☐

AMOUNT PER MONTH _____ **Year** _____

APPROVED BY: County Atty ☐ OMB/Purchasing ☐ Risk Management ☐

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL: Murray E. Nelson
MAYOR PRO TEM MURRAY E. NELSON

DOCUMENTATION: Included ☒ Not Required ☐

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Hanson-Donna

From: CAPTDRKEN@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2005 7:48 AM
To: JEB@JEB.ORG
Cc: boccdis5@monroecounty-fl.gov
Subject: The keys has fulfilled state requests.Time to end critical concern-Ken

GOV. WE HAVE FULFILLED OUR COMMITMENTS AND STILL AWAIT PLAN TO END 30 YEARS OF CRITICAL CONCERN. THE TIMETABLE YOU ORDERED FROM TT AND DCA OVER A YEAR AGO HAS NEVER BEEN FORTHCOMING. IT IS TIME FOR LESS GOVERNMENT AS ALL STATE (REQUESTS/MANDATES) ISSUES HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. PLEASE BUILD A FIRE UNDER THEM AND LETS GET THIS DONE, DECLARE VICTORY BEFORE WE ARE BOTH A PART OF FLORIDA'S HISTORY! PREVIOUS INQUIRIES HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS, TIME FOR ACTION, WE HAVE EARNED IT. A RESOLUTION WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE COUNTY THANKS, KEN
P.S. WE ARE WELL AHEAD OF MANY OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE. SEE ARTICLE BELOW.

CITRUS COUNTY

Chassahowitzka is just symptom of the problem

As this county grows, there are two truths that must be accepted.

First, sewer systems are needed in environmentally sensitive areas.

And second, a permanent funding source is needed to make these improvements happen.

The breathtaking costs associated with the current plans to build a sewage system in the Chassahowitzka area have created great concern. At a public hearing last week on the Chassahowitzka project, it became apparent that residents who live along the waterfront don't think they can afford the \$10,000 price tag per lot to build the system.

In fact, some have said they would prefer to live with the ongoing pollution than pay for improvements.

Life is not that simple.

The health hazards that have been created in Chassahowitzka are a symptom of a much larger issue.

New residents keep moving to Citrus County every day and we do not have an overall plan on how to stop human pollution from destroying our water. We are destroying the water in our rivers. We are destroying the water in our lakes. And we are destroying the water that is underground and is used for drinking.

If we continue to do nothing, we will all wake up one day and scream because our drinking water has become too polluted to consume. People will want to know why nothing was done to correct the problem before it became a disaster.

Folks, today is the day to start fixing the problem.

The economics of huge infrastructure improvements don't work out unless there is an infusion of cash.

The state and federal governments have told us they will help, but only if local people demonstrate a willingness

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to help themselves.

Citrus County residents have already demonstrated an unwillingness to approve a sales tax to generate the needed dollars. Our politicians have been unable to find other solutions.

We recommend that the county commission designate a portion of a mill of local tax for the single purpose of making infrastructure improvements to stop pollution. As the assessed value of property in the county grows, so will the fund to match state and federal grants needed for these sewer and water improvements.

Right now Citrus County commissioners refuse to use general tax dollars to address pollution. Their thinking is that the ratepayers of existing utilities combined with impact fees should generate the funds necessary to expand the systems.

That philosophy is what got us into the current mess.

County commissioners tell us that water is the No. 1 priority. It's time for the board members to stop with the political rhetoric and actually get something done.

If the county takes the first step, Gov. Bush will be much more likely to let state dollars flow to our local projects. U.S. Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite needs to work with the same enthusiasm she used to win the recent Lecanto Veterans Affairs clinic to win federal grants for protecting our water.

The Chassahowitzka project can be saved through this local initiative combined with state and federal support. Chassahowitzka residents need to pay their fair share of the improvement because, after all, it is their specific property that will benefit.

But every Citrus County resident will benefit each time we take a step to protect our water. And that's why each Citrus County resident should share in generating some of the money needed to get the job done.

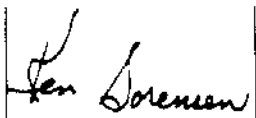
Hanson-Donna

From: Sorensen, Ken [Ken.Sorensen@myfloridahouse.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2005 11:06 AM
To: boccdis5@monroecounty-fl.gov; boccdis1@monroecounty-fl.gov; boccdis3@monroecounty-fl.gov; Willi-Tom@MonroeCounty-FL.Gov; Higgins, Elaine; Mayor@keywestcity.com; javael@keywestcity.com; putom@ci.marathon.fl.us; jebartus@bellsouth.net; mayor@keycolonybeach.net; cityclerk@keycolonybeach.net; layton@terranova.net; bob.johnson@islamorada.fl.us; bernie.lapira@islamorada.fl.us; mayor@floridacityfl.us; cityclerk@floridacityfl.us; rwarren@ci.homestead.fl.us; civy@cityofhomestead.com
Subject: Legislative Package

Sir/Madam,

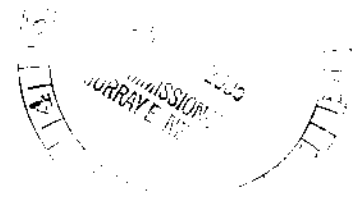
It is that time of year again for me to put together my legislative package and to begin work on those items that we would like to see pass Tallahassee. I write today to formally request that you submit to me proposals for my consideration and sponsorship. To assure that everyone is in agreement I ask that these proposals also be accompanied by a favorably passed resolution from your particular governing institution, preferably from your administrator's office. If the proposal has fiscal impact please include a budget amount. The deadline for submission is December 15, 2005 to assure that bills are filed in a timely manner. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you need further information. I look forward to working with you as the Legislative Season is upon us.

Most Sincerely,



Ken Sorensen, Ph.D.
State Representative—District 120
(305)853-1947 phone
(305)853-1949 fax

12/1/2005



Hanson-Donna

From: CAPTDRKEN@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2005 6:06 AM
To: Teresa.Tinker@LASPBS.STATE.FL.US; FL_DEP@dep.state.fl.us; michael.sole@dep.state.fl.us; Thaddeus.Cohen@dca.state.fl.us
Cc: JEB@JEB.ORG
Subject: Colleen,Thadeusand T.T ,waiting for response on attached 60 day old request-K

Still waiting for response on attached 60 day old request- please respond to these long overdue issues,
 Thanks, Ken
 H.M cc ltr file

In a message dated 11/3/2005 12:45:10 PM Eastern Standard Time, postmaster@LASPBS.STATE.FL.US writes:

DEAR SECRETARY,
 NOW THAT WE HAVE A COMPLETED AGREEMENT (SEE YOUR PREVIOUS COMMENTS) BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARATHON AND THE FCAA ON JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES REGARDING SEWERING OF MARATHON, I ASK YOU TO CONSIDER MY REQUEST FOR THE ADDITIONAL \$3 MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH WE PUT INTO THE BUDGET, BE ALLOCATED TO THE CITY OF MARATHON AS PART OF THEIR PROGRAM. AS YOU REALIZE IT WILL BE MORE THEN MATCHED BY MARATHON AND WILL EXPEDITE THE PROJECT AND SPEED UP CLEANING OF OUR WATERS.

WHEN LAST WE COMMUNICATED ON THIS ISSUE YOU SUGGESTED THAT NOTHING BE DONE ON THIS ADDITIONAL \$3 MILLION UNTIL THE JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE WAS RESOLVED. NOW THAT THE ISSUE HAS BEEN PUT TO BED AND THE CITY IS READY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ALL DISPATCH I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO ALLOCATE THESE SEWER FUNDS TO MARATHON IN AN EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE THE STATES SUPPORT FOR THE OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL COMMITMENT THEY HAVE MADE TO ALL OF OUR EFFORTS TO CLEAN THE NEAR SHORE WATERS OF THE KEYS.

THE LAST YEAR HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE FOR ALL INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY AS WE HAMMERED OUT THE JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES. THAT PROCESS IS NOW OVER AND DONE AND THE ENTIRE COUNTY IS NOW WELL DOWN THE ROAD OF ALL ISSUES WHICH CAUSED CRITICAL CONCERN TO BE INITIATED AND IT IS NOW TIME TO ENTER DISCUSSIONS WITH MONROE COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES ON REMOVING THAT ONEROUS STATUS.

PLEASE JOIN WITH ME IN BRINGING RESOLVE TO THESE ISSUES IMMEDIATELY.
 REP KEN SORENSEN